

Claims

1 A system for use with broadcast data where at least a proportion of said data is selectively broadcast following a user selection at a broadcast data receiver, using a video on demand (VOD) system and characterised in that information relating to the assets of the VOD data is provided at the receiver for said VOD data in the form of at least one information table which is referred to by the receiver apparatus in the processing of said data to allow the display of the selected material to the user.

2. A system according to claim 1 wherein the assets of the VOD data are set out in two tables of information in the receiver, the first being an asset availability table (AAT) which specifies to the receiver processing the VOD data, assets which may be viewed on the network to which the user is a subscriber, and a second information table which is an asset information table (AIT) which provides to the receiver, information which defines and relates to those VOD assets which are indicated in the AAT table as being available.

3 A system according to claim 1 wherein the data for the tables is provided within the receiver memory.

4 A system according to claim 1 wherein information data for the tables is transmitted at intervals to the receiver.

5 A format and system for the broadcast of data which can be received by a broadcast data receiver and selectively processed to allow the generation of video and/or audio for viewing and/or listening by a user of the apparatus, said format allowing the description and allocation of assets relating to data known as VOD data and wherein the information relating to the assets of identifiable portions of the broadcast data is held in memory at the Broadcast Data Receiver with at least some of the data having been received along with the broadcast data and separated from the same and stored by the receiver for subsequent reference.

6 A format and system according to claim 5 wherein the asset data is stored in two information groups, a first group identifying which portions of the broadcast data is accessible for viewing and/or listening by a user in accordance with specific access controls for the specified user and a second group identifying assets of eth accessible data.

7 A format and system according to claim 5 wherein the asset data is transmitted to the Broadcast Data receiver as an extension to the transmission of data for a DVB (Digital Video Broadcast) Service Information.